



Avian Influenza... What You Need to Know



Avian influenza (bird flu) is an infectious disease of birds caused by type A strains of the influenza (flu) virus. Wild birds often carry the disease without becoming sick. Domesticated birds such as ducks, chickens and turkeys can become very sick and die when infected. The disease is very contagious among birds. Since avian influenza is similar to human influenza, humans can sometimes contract the avian type of influenza. Most cases of bird flu influenza in humans has resulted from contact with contaminated surfaces or infected poultry. People may have no symptoms at all or may have fever, cough, sore throat, muscle aches, eye infections, acute respiratory distress and viral pneumonia. People can become very ill and die. In very rare cases, the virus may be passed from one person to another. Scientists now fear that the virus will change and spread more easily among people. This could cause a pandemic that would kill millions of people. There is currently no vaccine for avian flu. Below are links to sites that provide more information on avian influenza.

Background/Overview	<u>CDC – Avian Influenza</u>
	<u>CIDRAP- Overview</u>
	<u>FAO - Background</u>
	<u>WHO – Avian influenza</u>
Cases	<u>CIDRAP – Case Count</u>
	<u>WHO – Confirmed Human Cases</u>
	<u>OIE – AI in Animals in Asia</u>
	<u>Europa – Documented avian influenza infections in humans (1997-2003)</u>
Current News / Updates	<u>CIDRAP - News</u>
	<u>OIE – Disease Information</u>
	<u>WHO – Situation Updates</u>
Frequently Asked Questions	<u>FAO – Questions & Answers</u>
	<u>WHO – Frequently asked Questions</u>
	<u>Public Health Agency of Canada – Frequently Asked Questions</u>

Maps	<u>Europa – Documented Avian Influenza infections in humans</u>
	<u>Europa – Recent (June 2004) outbreak of H5 AI in Asia and confirmed Human cases</u>
	<u>WHO – Western Pacific Region – AI in Asia</u>
Professional Guidance	<u>CDC – Professional Guidance</u>
	<u>FAO – Safety Measures</u>
	<u>WHO – Interim guidelines on clinical management of humans infected by influenza A (H5N1)</u>
	<u>WHO – Pandemic Preparedness</u>
Related Links / Issues	<u>CDC – Related Links</u>
	<u>FAO – Related Issues</u>
Transmission	<u>CDC – Transmission of Influenza A Viruses Between Animals and People</u>
	<u>CDC – Spread of Avian Influenza Viruses among Birds</u>
	<u>Europa – Transmission & Spread</u>
Vaccines	<u>WHO – Western Pacific Region – Production of pilot of inactivated influenza vaccines from reassortants derived from avian influenza viruses</u>
Videos / Slide Show	<u>FAO – AI Slide Show</u>
	<u>FAO - Videos</u>